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John Kean to Susan Kean, March 27, 1787

John Kean

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I have written my Susan three letters, the first of which I flatter myself she has received about this time - it will operate like the cordial to the fainting soul - it will relieve your anxiety & restore peace & tranquility to that bosom that never should know aught else - would to heaven I could extend my arms so far as to encircle it - but be still my soul agitate not thyself with things impossible - indulge thyself in the pleasures of sympathy - think of the things that are pleasing to thy Susan - let her image be ever present to thee - hold converse with her in thy dreams - paint thy feelings to her eye - tell her 'tis for her alone thou wishest to resume thy wonted vigour, rejoice in the thought of her being happy and be thou happy also -

When shall I see thy dear character on the snow white paper - when shall I say to my heart thy mistress is well, is happy, she

tells me so herself - but I fear there will be no opportunity sooner than Tinker, - dreadful thought. L

I dined in company the other day with W^{rs} J. Rutledge, W^{rs} R. Izard, W^{rs} Genl Moultrie, (who is your W^{rs} Hamiltons mother) W^{rs} F. Kinloch & ca they enquired after you & hoped to have the pleasure of seeing you in the fall. W^{rs} Rutledge said she was very well acquainted both with you & Eliza - W^{rs} Moultrie said she had not had the pleasure of ever seeing you, but that W^{rs} H had made her perfectly acquainted with you - W^{rs} H has had a little one since her arrival, so Tom has got a rival - W^{rs} Kinloch also has become a mother & almost all my female acquaintances are in similar situations -

The W^{rs} Elliott who W^{rs} Pierce mentions to you is dead -

Such changes are wrought in two years absence, that one hardly knows their native soil - what with marriages, births deaths & infamous laws, tis greatly changed.

Will you be so good as to look among my
acc^{ts} & transmit me that of Laurence & Morris
in which they charge me commissions for paying
& receiving monies -

I send a small box with trees & flower
roots as by the inclosed account, they are for M^{rs}
Pickets with my very best bow - I could not send
any melon seeds not having got into that part
of the country where I could best procure them -
if the number of trees &c are more than M^{rs}
R. has occasion for pray present ~~them~~^{some} to M^{rs}
Judge Livingston & apologize for me about the
melon seeds -

We had a change of weather on Saturday
the Thermometer sunk 20° in the course of the
night - I felt it very sensibly - but not in so
great a degree as I used to do the very cold
weather in New York -

Finker has promised me to come with
this letter himself - he will be a better and
more satisfactory evidence of my present
state of health than my declarations would

be - because he can have no inducement to represent me better or worse than I really am, while I might represent myself better from more reasons than one - I anticipate the moment of your interview with him, I feel happy at the joy your dear heart will experience - he will return to this place the first week in May & sail about the fifteenth of the month which will suit me very well to return - if I could but accomplish my money matters to my entire satisfaction I should return more pleased but I see little prospect of effecting that, no one thinks of paying what they owe, I cannot get a farthing from those who purchased my furniture - if I can get twelve hundred dollars together to purchase as much necessary furniture as we shall want, I shall think myself a fortunate man - this is very hard, but as I am determined to throw no impediment in the way of my recovery for your sake, so

I am resolved not to let it fret me, but do as well as we can, making shift with such things as we cannot possibly do without until we can do better and in this resolution I think my dear Susan will cheerfully join me -

You will my Dear Susan make all your arrangements in such manner that we may leave New York the last of October or beginning of November as the time of my service will then be out and as it will be a good time for me to leave that country on account of the approaching cold & for you to come to this that you may in some degree be used to the climate before the summer heats come on -

I am disappointed in my friend Robert Barnwells coming to Congress, he & all his friends had every reason to suppose he would be sent, as he was so near being chosen on the first election that he was thro mistake declared elected, but on examination it was found he wanted three or four votes

to make a majority of the whole number present which is necessary in our elections as well as having a greater number than any competitor - this being the case & his friends finding he had a great majority of any of those who were in the nomination had no suspicion of a new man being started against him, became remiss & on the election several not attending - a person who had not been thought of or mentioned before was put up & carried his election by ten votes - his name is Tucker - he is the same person with whom R. Izard fought a duel & wounded severely

Silk has come down by water from the plantation, he seems very well satisfied with the place & talks of sending for his family to come in Tinker if so your humanity needs no stimulus to urge it to do any small thing for them that they may want - I shall leave this on the 29th or 30th after which you must not expect to hear from me as I shall be so far removed

that I shall have no knowledge of any opportunity that may offer —

Tell my friend Pinckney that I should certainly have written to him, had I not been strictly prohibited from wielding my pen too much — Tell him that after a number of attempts for a change the system of taxation remains the same — no provision made for the payment of the States quota of the facility part of the requisition — a new instalment act by which no money can be recovered (except in a few instances) before March 88 — No negroes to be imported for three years and his friends the Players declared vagrants —

I have inclosed you a Bill for three hundred dollars on Samuel Franklin & Co. it is all I can procure at present. I have been in expectation of five hundred more but have been disappointed — I need not hint to my dear Susan the necessity of frugality when in addition to the badness of my Crop &

difficulty of obtaining money I tell her that even in this early part of the year I am obliged to buy provision for upwards of eighty people - those things which we cannot do without will no doubt be the first object of your purchase & as fast as I can get money I shall send it on - but you must calculate your out lays not to exceed five hundred pounds of your money at present -

If I cannot get bills I must send you some certificates which you must dispose of as well as you can -

Make my kindest & best respects acceptable to all the family - remember me to my friends & acquaintances & be assured my dear Susan that I am with great sincerity
Your affectionate
John Bran

Charleston
Mar: 27th 1787.